

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 IO-10 /042 W

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R 191802Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4932

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR: EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF CHARTER
 UNDERSTANDINGS

REF: STATE 215646

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTTEL, WE PROPOSED BILATERAL CHARTER
TALKS IN LONDON FOR OCTOBER 22-24. PROPOSAL HAS NOT
THUS FAR BEEN ACCEPTED ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND BRITISH
NEGOTIATING CALENDAR IS CLEAR ON DATES PROPOSED.

2. WE HAVE TRIED TO GET UK ATTITUDE TOWARD ONE-STOP
INCLUSIVE TOUR CHARTERS (OTCS) BUT HAVE BEEN FENDED
OFF BY UK OFFICIALS WHO SAY THEY ARE STILL STUDYING
CONCEPT OR WAITING TO HEAR WHAT U.S. HAS TO SAY ABOUT
OTCS. AT RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WE ATTENDED,
CAA CHAIRMAN DUCKED PRESS QUESTION ON BRITISH ATTITUDE
TOWARD OTCS WITH COMMENT THAT IN VIEW OF PRESENCE OF
USG OBSERVERS AT PRESS CONFERENCE HE WOULD RESERVE
COMMENT. SEEMS APPARENT THAT BRITISH ARE NOT GOING TO
REVEAL HAND UNTIL THEY AND OTHER EUROPEANS ARE, TO THE

EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, WE ARE
INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT ONE CAA OFFICIAL WITH WHOM
WE DISCUSSED SUBJECT REFLECTED BROADER BRITISH VIEW
ON OTCS WHEN HE SAID HE THOUGHT OTC WITHOUT PRICE CON-
TROLS AND WITH MINIMUM (\$15/DAY) GROUND PACKAGE WAS
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LITTLE MORE THAN A 30-DAY ABC WITHOUT ABC'S OTHER

SAFEGUARDS. IF THIS IS COMMONLY HELD VIEW, OTC WILL
BE VERY DIFFICULT CONCEPT TO SELL TO EUROPEAN AVIATION

3. WE UNDERSTAND ECAC CHARTER SUBCOMMITTEE MET IN
ROME WEEK OF SEPT. 8 AND DISCUSSED NEW U.S. CHARTER
RULES. WE ARE TOLD THEY RECOMMENDED THAT BILATERAL
TALKS WITH U.S. NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER ANOTHER
TRIPARTITE MEETING OF ECAC/US/CANADA. THIS RECOMMENDA-
TION HAS TO BE REVIEWED BY CHARCO GROUP LATER THIS
MONTH BUT THEY ARE EXPECTED TO ENDORSE LT AND SUBMIT
IT TO THE OCTOBER 7-8 MEETING OF ECAC DIRECTORS
GENERAL. THIS APPROACH MAY BE REFLECTED IN BERN 3908
ALTHOUGH SWISS DID NOT INDICATE THAT DECISION DELAY ON
REQUEST TO CONSULT IS A COORDINATED EUROPEAN POSITION
AND SINCE THEY DID NOT OUR SUSPICION THAT IT IS MAY NOT
BE JUSTIFIED.

4. IN VIEW OF PROBLEMS WE MAY ENCOUNTER WITH EUROPEANS,
WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST, IF IT IS NOT TOO LATE, THAT
DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT TO RECONSIDER ITS NEGOTIATING
STRATEGY WITH EUROPEANS. RATHER THAN START NEGOTIATING
ROUND WITH THE FRENCH WHO, WE WOULD JUDGE FROM THEIR
RECENT DISAPPROVAL OF WORLD AIRWAYS ITC PROGRAM, ARE
GOING TO BE TOUGH NUTS TO CRACK, AND THEN FOLLOWING
WITH SWISS WHO ARE RELUCTANT TO MEET AND WHO APPEAR TO
HAVE FALLEN INTO LINE WITH OTHER ECAC MEMBERS, INSTEAD
WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE START WITH THE BELGIANS.
BELGIANS SEEM FAVORABLY DISPOSED BUT PROBABLY SHOULD
NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED SINCE THEY ARE DOUBTLESSLY
UNDER STRONG PRESSURES FROM OTHER ECAC MEMBERS TO TOE
THE LINE.

5. ALTHOUGH WE ARE PROBABLY OVERSIMPLIFYING, IT SEEMS
TO US THAT NATURE OF OTC CONCEPT IS SUCH THAT ONE
ASSURED ACCESS POINT FOR OTCS IN EUROPE WOULD SERIOUSLY
UNDERCUT WHAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE A TOUGH NEGOTIATING

STANCE AMONG OTHER EUROPEANS. BELGIUM WOULD APPEAR TO
BE COUNTRY MOST LIKELY TO BREAK RANKS WITH OTHER ECAC
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MEMBERS PROVIDED IT RECEIVES SOMETHING IT WANTS FROM
U.S. IN RETURN. WE WOULD URGE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER
TACKLING BELGIANS FIRST AND HAVE IN HAND SOME REASONABLE
INDUCEMENT FOR THEM TO ACCEPT A LIBERAL CHARTER REGIME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, POLICIES, AMENDMENTS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON14576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750326-0469
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750936/aaaabfks.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 215646
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF CHARTER UNDERSTANDINGS
TAGS: EAIR, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006